

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A presence management system suitable for use in a multiple access communications network; by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, said presence management system comprising:

(i) A a first input arranged to receive notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;

(ii) A a second input arranged to receive information about events occurring in said multiple access communications system; and

(iii) A a processor arranged such that in use, when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event, the processor being further arranged to take account of any parties which comprise a plurality of individuals and to treat the plurality as a single indivisible entity.

5. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party is a watching party.

6. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party is a watched party.

7. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of said parties is an automated service.

8. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one party comprising a plurality of individuals, is arranged to be modified by one individual only.

9. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is further arranged to provide information about the

geographical location of a watched party in use, on the basis of said received information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network.

10. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is further arranged to provide information about the current activity of a watched party, on the basis of said received information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network.

11. 8. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said presence management system is arranged to provide information about types of connection that a watched party is able to participate in.

6. 12. 9. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 which is arranged to provide information about a change in the availability of a group of watched parties, only when a threshold number of members of said group of individuals have undergone a change in availability.

13. 10. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said store of watched party information comprises watched party connection preferences.

14. 11. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 that is arranged to provide a connection address for that watched party.

3. 12. (previously presented) A presence management system as claimed in claim 11² wherein said connection address being only operable for a predetermined time.

4. 13. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 12³ which is further arranged such that the request from the watching party is forwarded to the connection address provided, in such a way that the watching party has no access to that connection address.

14. (original) A presence management system as claimed in claim 1 and wherein a plurality of said events are initiated by watched parties and comprise a communication via said multiple access network.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, said computer program being adapted to control a presence management system, said presence management system being suitable for use in a multiple access communications network by watched parties and watching parties connected to the presence management system, said computer program being arranged to control said presence management system such that:

(i) notification requests are received from watching parties, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;

(ii) information is received about events occurring in said multiple access communications system; and

(iii) when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event; and the event notification being made by taking account of any parties which comprise a plurality of individuals and to treating the plurality as a single indivisible entity.

16. (Currently Amended) A multiple access communications network comprising a presence management system, for use by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, said presence management system comprising:

(i) A a first input arranged to receive notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party, and at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system;

(ii) A a second input arranged to receive information about events occurring in said multiple access communications system; and,

(iii) A a processor arranged such that in use, when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, are notified about the event, the processor being further arranged to take account of any parties which comprise a plurality of individuals and to treat the plurality as a single indivisible entity.

6/ 17. (Previously presented) A method of operating a presence management system suitable for use in a multiple access communications network, said presence management system being for use by watching parties and watched parties connected to the presence management system, at least one of said parties comprising a plurality of individuals, wherein each of said individuals has a respective separate connection to the presence management system, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) receiving notification requests from watching parties in use, each notification request being in respect of a watched party;
 - (ii) receiving information about events that occur in said multiple access communications network, said events relating to said watched parties; and
 - (iii) when information about an event relating to a particular watched party is received, notifying any watching parties who made notification requests about that particular watched party, about the event and the event notification being made by taking account of any parties which comprise a plurality of individuals and to treating the plurality as a single indivisible entity.
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